

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-07

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P 141555Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4121

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0220

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: FY 76 MAP TRAINING FOR ARGENTINA

REF: SECDEF MSG 081459Z JAN 76

1. (U) BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SUBJECT PROGRAM CITED REFERENCED MESSAGE FULLY UNDERSTOOD. ALSO, SECDEF ASD/ISA ASSISTANCE IN ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH IMMINENT DEPARTURES GREATLY APPRECIATED. THIS ACTION TEMPORARILY AVOIDED EMBARRASSMENT WITH HC SERVICES AND THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

2. (C) ASSUME THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS DONE TO PREVENT PROGRAM SUSPENSION. HOWEVER, IN RECLAMA, SEVERAL POINTS HAVE A BEARING ON SITUATION WHICH MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING HIGHER CRA LEVEL.

A. LEVEL OF \$1000,000 FOR FY 75 WAS ONLY A PARTIAL REINSTATEMENT, LATE IN TRAINING YEAR, OF A \$700,000 PROGRAM SUSPENDED DUE CUBA SANCTION PROBLEM. HAD THIS PROBLEM NOT OCCURRED, THE ENTIRE AMOUNT WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE AS BASIS FOR CURRENT CRA FUNDING.

B. THE REF MSG SAID ARGENTINA HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC
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STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS. THE REVERSE, AS NOTED IN NUMEROUS

CABLES, IS THE ACTUAL CASE. PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA HAVE PLACED AN EVEN GREATER REQUIREMENT ON THE ARGENTINE MILITARY TO SEEK ADVANCES ON FMS CREDITS, AND TO PLACE GREATER RELAIANCE ON GRANT AID TRAINING. IN THIS CONNECTION, REQUESTS ARE PRESENTLY BEING STAFFED IN WASHINGTON FOR ADVANCES ON FMS CREDITS, AND TO PLACE GREATER RELIANCE ON GRANT AID TRAINING. IN THIS CONNECTION, REQUESTS ARE PRESENTLY BEING STAFFED IN WASHINGTON FOR ADVANCES AGAINST FY 76 FMS CREDITS WHICH ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED BY RC SERVICES. ECONOMICALLY THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE PRESENTLY FEELING AN ACUTE ECONOMIC STRAIN AND NEED THE FULL GRANT AID TRAINING PROGRAM OF \$920,000.

3. HAVING SUSPENDED THE FY 75 PROGRAM, REINSTATING ONLY \$100,000 AT YEAR END, SUSPENDING NOW THE FY 76 PROGRAM OF \$920,000 WHICH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY HAS BEEN EXPECTING AND IS PROGRAMMED TO MEET, WILL DESTROY WHAT GOOD WILL COMUSMILGP ARGENTINA HAS MANAGED TO REGAIN OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS. GIVEN THE PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ARGENTINA AND THE IMPORT-ANCE OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WITH RESPECT TO THEIR POSSIBLE ROLE IN FUTURE GOVERNMENT, THE TIMING OF THIS SUSPENSION COULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED AT A MORE INOPPORTUNE TIME.

4. (U) IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL WILL NOT TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE END OF FEBRUARY - MID-MARCH TIME FRAME. USING THE POINTS NOTED ABOVE, ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED IN MAKING ANOTHER APPROACH TO CONTINUE CRA AUTHORITY BASED ON THE FY 75 APPROVED LEVEL, \$700,000 VERSUS FUNDED LEVEL OF \$100,000, TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS SCHEDULED TO DEPART DURING THE FEBRUARY - MID-MARCH TIME FRAME. ANY ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD WILL BE OF MATERIAL BENEFIT IN MAINTAINING THE FY 76 MAP-T PROGRAM IN AN ONGOING STATUS AND HC MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS.
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